

**Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Award  
for U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents (USDISCA)**

Program Description, Application, and Instructions

**Deadline for Applications: January 1**  
**Award Notification: March 1**

The Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Award for U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents (USDISCA) supports direct collaboration between American senior scientists and their colleagues outside the United States. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) sponsors the program to advance scientific understanding of drug abuse and addiction through cooperation on new research methods and techniques; data analysis; collaborative research reports or proposals; or basic, clinical, and applied research. Applicants should propose innovative collaborations that can produce outcomes such as a new investigative finding, scientific publication, or a research grant proposal. Within 30 days of completing the exchange visit, awardees will be required to submit a report to NIDA. NIDA is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The U.S. applicant must be a NIDA grantee throughout the award period, and the exchange visit must be completed within 12 months of the award announcement.

**The USDISCA Award**

The Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Award for U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents provides:

- Monthly allowance of \$6,250 to cover short-term living expenses in the host country for a period of 1 to 3 months, depending on the project requirements.
- One round trip from and to the home city for the scientist only.

Visas and health insurance are the responsibility of the awardees. NIDA will supply a list of recommended health insurance providers, and awardees must provide documentation of health insurance prior to travel.

**Eligibility**

Applicants for the USDISCA Award must:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States;
- Be a current NIDA grantee during the period of the award;
- Have a minimum of 7 years' experience in drug abuse research beyond the postdoctoral level;
- Document a scientific record that includes peer-reviewed publications;
- Obtain letters of concurrence from the U.S. home institution, the collaborating foreign scientist, and the foreign host institution; and
- Submit two letters of reference documenting research expertise: one from a supervisor and one from a research colleague.

## **Review Criteria**

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Successful candidates will be highly qualified U.S. researchers with current funding from NIDA. Priority may be given to new initiatives, projects demonstrating defined support from the U.S. or foreign host institution, or to proposals that will enhance research skills in the United States or the host country. Successful applications will:

- Have the potential to advance scientific understanding of drug abuse and addiction (as assessed by significance, approach, innovation, and qualifications);
- Be likely to produce a product or other outcome within one year; and
- Fall within the NIDA research mission.

## **To Apply**

Each applicant for the USDISCA award must:

- Complete Part I of page 1 and pages 2 through 8. Use additional sheets if necessary.
- Have officials from your home institution complete page 7.
- Ask your collaborating researcher to complete Part II of page 1, plus pages 9 through 11.
- Ask your collaborating researcher to have officials from the foreign host institution complete page 11.
- Ask your current supervisor and a research colleague for confidential letters of support. These letters should be sent directly to the NIDA International Program.

- Submit the completed application to:  
NIDA International Program  
Office of Science Policy and Communications  
Research Training and Exchange  
National Institute on Drug Abuse  
6001 Executive Boulevard  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892 USA  
Telephone: +1-301-443-6480  
Fax: +1-301-443-6277  
E-mail: [ip@nida.nih.gov](mailto:ip@nida.nih.gov)  
Web site: [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov)